

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for the production of a lighting element comprising at least one luminescent diode and an inserted light-guiding body, which is arranged in front of said luminescent diode in the direction of the exit of the main light, wherein the respective luminescent diodes are connected to the inserted light-guiding body by an injection molding process with transparent plastic, the said method comprising: being characterized in that,

at least 50% of the surface (12) of the light-emitting diodes is covered by the ~~injected material (30)~~ transparent plastic during injection molding, and

that the maximum wall thickness of the ~~injected layer (30)~~ transparent plastic does not exceed three-times the minimum wall-thickness of the transparent plastic said layer (30).

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the lower edge (32) of the ~~injected layer (30)~~ transparent plastic engaging radially around the surface (12) of the light-emitting diode ends below a plane, which runs normal to the centerline (7) of the luminescent diode (11) and through the center of gravity of the light-emitting chip (6) of this luminescent diode (11).

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the luminescent diode (11) and the inserted light-guiding body (21) are located on a common centerline (7), wherein the centerline (7) runs through the center of gravity of the light-emitting chip (6) of the luminescent diode (11).

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the lighting element (70) is made of several individual lighting elements (10) arranged adjoining to one another.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 4, characterized in that the centerlines (7) of the individual lighting elements (10) are arranged parallel to one another or intersect in an at least partially fan-like manner at one or more points located behind the lighting element (70) or intersect at a short distance.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the inserted light-guiding body includes ~~(21) comprises~~ a concave recess ~~(25)~~ towards the diode ~~(11)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that a light lens ~~(40)~~ for designing a main light exit surface ~~(41)~~ is molded into the combination of the diode ~~(11)~~, the inserted light-guiding body ~~(21)~~ and the injected layer ~~(30)~~ in an additional injection molding step.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 7, characterized in that the light lens ~~(40)~~ is a diffusing screen.

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim ~~1~~ and 8, characterized in that the inserted light-guiding body ~~(21)~~ has a different color than that of the diffusing screen ~~(40)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one substance is admixed to the material of at least one component ~~(11, 21, 30, 40)~~, wherein said substance emits a light of another wavelength when excited by the light emitted from the chip ~~(6)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that the luminescent diodes ~~(11)~~ are fixed on a circuit board before the coating by ~~means of~~ injection molding.

12. (New) A lighting element comprising:
a light source for emitting light;
a light-guiding body spaced from said light source for receiving the emitted light and for focusing the emitted light to create focused light; and
a layer of plastic disposed between said light source and said light-guiding body to position said light source relative to said light-guiding body, said layer of plastic covering at least fifty percent of said light source.

13. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 12 wherein said layer of plastic defines a wall thickness having a maximum wall thickness and a minimum wall thickness.

14. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 13 wherein said maximum wall thickness is less than three times said minimum wall thickness.

15. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 14 wherein said layer of plastic includes a lower edge disposed about and engaging said light source.

16. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 15 wherein said light source and said light-guiding body are coaxial.

17. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 16 wherein said light source is a light emitting diode.

18. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 17 wherein said light emitting diode and said light-guiding body are coaxial.

19. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 18 wherein said light-guiding body includes a concave recess disposed adjacent to and coaxial with said light emitting diode.

20. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 19 including a light lens for diffusing said focused light.

21. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 20 wherein said light lens includes diffusing screen.

22. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 21 wherein said light-guiding body defines a first color and said diffusing screen defines a second color such that said first color differs from said second color.

23. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 22 including an integrated circuit board wherein said light emitting diode is secured thereto.

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24. (New) A lighting element as set forth in claim 23 wherein said light-guiding body includes flattened lateral surfaces.